

# Hiking Trails

## Natural Communities

Trails leading from the parking area will take you through and around the three dominant natural communities and seven (7) miles of nature trail. Many trails offer no shade or shelter, so be prepared for sun, excessive heat, or sudden thunderstorms. Make sure you have plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Trails may have uneven surfaces, so please be cautious and aware of your surroundings to ensure a safe hike. You may encounter an American alligator, feral hog, or a poisonous snake. Please observe all wildlife at a safe distance.

## Wildlife Viewing

Pinelands is home to a variety of wildlife and offers plenty of opportunities to view a number of species in their natural state.

Common wildlife observed from the trails and observation tower include; the American Bald Eagle, American Alligator, White-tailed Deer, Barred Owl, Wild Turkey, Wood Stork, Ibis, Sandhill Crane, many other Waders, Quail, butterflies, and several species of snakes, including the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake and Coral Snake.

**Early morning and late evening are the best times to observe wildlife.**

**Please observe all wildlife at a safe distance.**

# Pinelands Natural Area



## Nature Trail



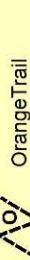
**St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department**  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982  
772-462-2525



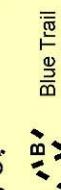
[http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/environmental\\_lands.htm](http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/environmental_lands.htm)  
**Gates Open: Sunrise to Sunset**

# Pinelands

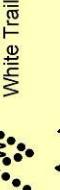
Parking Lot & Kiosk



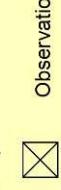
Orange Trail  
Blue/Orange Trail



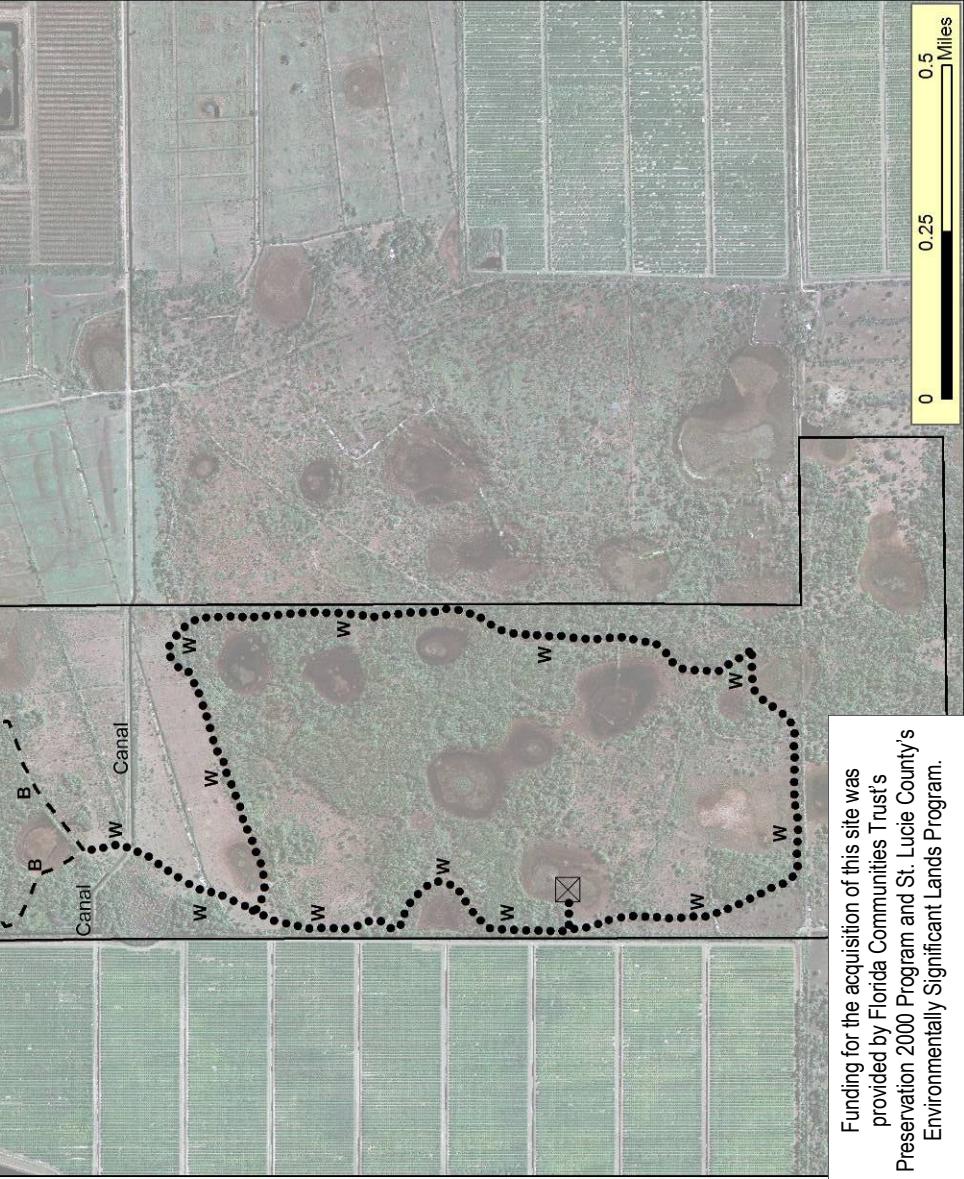
Blue Trail



White Trail



Site Boundary



Pinelands contains 746 acres of relatively undisturbed natural communities, including Mesic Flatwoods, Wet Flatwoods, Wet Prairie, and Depression Marsh.

The parking area is located at the end of VIP Grove Rd., 17 miles west of Ft. Pierce off of S.R. 70.

VIP Grove Rd. is an intermittent dirt and unimproved private owned road. Please be cautious of pot holes, washouts following rain, soft sand, and agriculture equipment along the roadway. Please be courteous to our neighbors and tread lightly when entering the site.

## Guidelines and Safety Information:

- Be cautious of uneven trail surfaces.
- Please remain on the trails.
- Carry adequate drinking water, snacks, & insect repellent
- In case of lightning, seek a low area away from trees, fence lines and tall objects.
- In case of emergency, call 911.
- While hiking the trail you may encounter animals indigenous to this area (Incl. snakes and alligators). Please observe from a safe distance.
- Leave all plant life intact.
- Please leave site cleaner than you found it.  
“Pack it in, pack it out.”
- **Use at own risk.**

To learn more about St. Lucie County's natural heritage, there are more than 20 self-guiding interpretive trails located within the Natural Areas/Preserves. Each trail describes the most common plants, as well as significant geographical and historical features of the site.

Funding for the acquisition of this site was provided by Florida Communities Trust's Preservation 2000 Program and St. Lucie County's Environmentally Significant Lands Program.